

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 AS-01

/109 W

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R 131451Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1311

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TS

SUBJ: PRESENT PRICE FOR TUNISIAN CRUDE OIL AND OTHER RECENT
PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENTS IN TUNISIA

1. SENIOR OFFICIAL TUNISIAN NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (ETAP)
INFORMED EMBOFF THAT GOT HAS CONCLUDED CONTRACTS FOR FIRST
QUARTER LIFTINGS OF CRUDE OIL FROM EL BORMA FIELD AT \$12.92
PER BARREL. THIS DESCRIBED AS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN CURRENT
ALGERIAN SELLING PRICE AND INCLUDES BULK OF CRUDE OIL
PRODUCED FROM EL BORMA. CONTRACTS ALSO CONCLUDED FOR SALE
AT \$11.50 PER BARREL FOR HEAVIER OFFSHORE CRUDE FROM
ASHTART.

2. ETAP OFFICIAL ALSO STATED THAT SALES OF EL BORMA CRUDE
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TO US JUMPED IN LAST QUARTER 1975 AS RESULT OF CONTRACT

FOR 100,000 BARRELS CONCLUDED WITH COASTAL STATES OF HOUSTON WHO ALSO PURCHASING TUNISIAN CRUDE IN 1976. LIFTING BY AMOCO OF ABOUT \$10 MILLION IN OCTOBER AS WELL AS COASTAL STATES PURCHASES HAVE CAUSED MAJOR INCREASE IN TUNISIAN EXPORTS TO US AND WILL PROBABLY RESULT IN TRADE SURPLUS IN TUNISIAN FAVOR FOR YEAR AS WHOLE.

3. ETAP OFFICIAL STATED THAT MARATHON IS PRESENTLY NEGOTIATING FOR JOINT VENTURE WITH ETAP ON SMALL OFFSHORE PERMIT ON ADJOINING BOUNDARY WITH LIBYA WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY INTERESTED SOFRATEP, SUNOCO, AND BUTTES. APPARENTLY VERY PROMISING SEISMIC WORK AND OIL DISCOVERY ON NEARBY LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF PRACTICALLY GUARANTEE OIL FIND ON THIS PERMIT. ETAP OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT GOT NOT CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES WITH LIBYA BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES ON LOCATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY ON SOUTHERN SIDE OF THIS PERMIT. HE NOTED THAT MARATHON IS CURRENTLY DRILLING ON GABES-JERBA-BEN GARDANE PERMIT, WHICH IT HAD ACQUIRED IN APR 1975 AND HAS ENCOUNTERED PROMISING OIL SHOWS.

4. HE ALSO NOTED THAT AGIP, WHICH IS OPERATOR FOR JOINTLY HELD EL BORMA CONCESSION, IS PRESENTLY DEVELOPING SMALL FIELD LOCATED ENTIRELY IN TUNISIA SOUTH OF EL BORMA AREA.

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04 MAY 2006

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